

TWO OPPOSING VIEWS OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD

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View One: God had to kill Jesus in order to be able to forgive any person of their sin. God had to kill Jesus in order that God's justice could be satisfied in letting the believer go unpunished. So, God punished Jesus in place of the believer and God poured out His wrath on Jesus in place of the believer.

Rebuttal: This would mean that God cannot forgive without being paid off for sin. This means that God's justice is punitive. This view declares that something within God must change before God can forgive. But God never changes. This view is evil. This view degrades the character of God.

This view is forced upon a few verses of Scripture and these verses have a totally different purpose.

View Two: God allowed all sin of all time to come against Jesus and kill Him. Because Jesus was innocent and sinless, God condemned sin and declared sin defeated by the death of Jesus. Jesus arose with all power to defeat sin in the believer's life through the power of the Holy Spirit. This would mean that God freely forgives sin without being paid off because Jesus was defeating sin at the cross and not being punished by God for sinners. This would mean that justice is satisfied by cleansing the sinner and not by changing God's attitude toward sinners. This justice of God is restorative and not punitive. All Scripture shouts restoration and transformation of the believer. Believers are "new creations" in Christ Jesus and will be returned to glory. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God kills sin in the believer through sanctification and finally God restores the believer to glory through glorification.

View One is being taught in Southern Baptist churches today. This view contributes to believers compromising with sin thinking that their sin has been punished and paid for in Jesus. But Jesus was not punished by God for their sin. Believers still pay for their own sin. This view so degrades the character of God that people run from this angry God and flee the church. This view declares that God killed Jesus rather than God letting sin defeat itself by killing Jesus.

Believers pay for their own sin eternally by loss of reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 1 Corinthians 3:14,15

